(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) No such survey has been conducted by the Government. However, as per available information with the National Crime Records Bureau, the total number of murders due to withcraft was 126 and 127 during 2000 and 2001, respectively.

(c) 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and therefore, it is the responsibility of the States to detect such cases and take remedial action.

Rejection of judicial verdict on Ayodhya dispute

4228. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Vishwa Hindu Parishad rejected any solution of Ayodhya dispute through a judicial verdict;

(b) whether it is also a fact that V.H.P. has threatened Government to face "Aar Paar Ki Ladayi (Fight to the finish)' if their demands are not met; and

(c) if so, response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Various individuals/organizations keep making statements according to their choice and convenience on the Ram Janma Bhoomi-Babri Masjid issue. However, Government of India have not received any thing in writing from any organization rejecting the judicial verdict. The stand of the Central Government on the issue has been very clear and unambiguous that the Ayodhya dispute can be resolved either through mutual agreement among all the parties concerned or through the verdict of the judiciary.

Fire in the slum basties on Yamuna Pushta in Delhi

4229. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fire broke out in the slum basties on the Yamuna Pushta in Delhi on 18th March, 2003;

(b) if so, the cause of the fire, the number of jhuggies gutted as a

result thereof and the number of persons who died and those seriously injured due to fire;

(c) whether there are any norms fixed for the payment of compensation in such cases; and

(d) if so, the deails thereof, separately indicating the compensation payable for the loss of each jhuggi, for the dead and the seriously injured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cause of the fire has not as yet been determined. However, the survey conducted indicates that 1420 jhuggis were gutted in fire in which 11 persons died and one person was seriously injured.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The ex-gratia payment admissible in such cases is indicated as under:

Jhuggies gutted:	Rs. 1,000/-
Death:	Rs. 50,000/- in case of a major.
Death:	Rs. 25,000/- in case of a minor.
Seriously injured:	Rs. 20,000/-.

Curbing flow of development funds to militants

4230. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Study Group on North-east has been set up to curb flow of development funds to militants operating in the region, and suggesting a system of effective governance;

(b) if so, what are its main findings, observation and suggestions;

(c) whether the study reveals payment of lakhs of rupees of development funds per month to MLAs in politically unstables States; and

(d) Government's response and reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) The terms of reference of the North East Study Group are: